

LATE



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

TO: Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair
Committee on Human Services

FROM: Diane M. Terada, Division Administrator

DATE: Tuesday, February 08, 2011 (2 p.m., Room 016)

RE: **Support of SB 1508, Relating to Human Services and Health**

Catholic Charities Hawaii (CCH), is a tax exempt, non-profit agency that has been providing supportive home and community based services to elders since 1973 and currently serves approximately 5,000 older persons each year. **We support SB 1508 to provide additional funding for the Kupuna Care program, which funds essential services for seniors.**

Catholic Charities Hawaii has provided Kupuna Care Transportation Services for a number of years. In addition, we have been partners with other aging network providers who also provide essential State-funded Kupuna Care Services such as home-delivered meals, case management, chore & housekeeping, bathing service and more.

State-funded Kupuna Care currently funds a set of basic, essential services that help frail elders remain independent and avoid institutionalization or homelessness. In addition, these services support family caregivers who are providing support to frail elderly relatives who still want to maintain their independence but require supportive services, from family and the community, in order to do so.

Aging network providers cannot meet the **growing demand for services** when faced by years of **flat or reduced State and Federal funding** and the **growing cost of service delivery** due to aging vehicles, increased cost of gas and utilities, increased cost of providing health insurance for employees, etc.

At over \$100,000 a year.¹, nursing home care is unaffordable for most elders and results in more cost to taxpayers and government Additional funding for community-based Kupuna Care services will allow our kupuna to remain in the community (which they prefer) and avoid costly institutionalization.

Please support SB 1508. Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Please feel free to contact me at 527-4702 or diane.terada@catholiccharitieshawaii.org if I can provide any further information.

¹ Genworth Financial, *Hawaii State-Specific Data from the Genworth 2010 Cost of Care Survey*, April 2010



LATE

To: The Senate Human Services Committee
The Honorable Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
The Honorable Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice-Chair

Date: Feb. 8, 2011
Time: 2:00 PM
Room: 016
From: Rose Nakamura, Administrator, Project Dana

Subject: Testimony Supporting S.B. No. 1508: Relating to Human Services and Health

I strongly support S.B. No. 1508-Relating to Human Services and Health. More specifically, this Senate Bill 1508 addresses an appropriation of \$2,963,411 for Kupuna Care programs FY 2012-2013 in addition to the Executive Office on Aging base budget.

Kupuna Care has for many years through the Executive Office on Aging in partnership with the county area agencies on aging provided much support to the elders throughout the State of Hawaii. The numbers of elders needing long term care assistance are ever increasing as the demographics lean heavily towards an aging society. In a few years, older adults 60 and over, will make up 25% of Hawaii's population.

Aging in place is the desire for everyone in Hawaii and assistance in various nature i.e. case management, information and referral, meals on wheels, transportation, housing, personal care, attendant care, etc. is increasing. Kupuna Care is a cost effective program and plays a vital role in maintaining seniors to live happily in their homes. Many older adults are isolated, shut in, lonely and helpless and need some assistance in coping with daily living. The numerous unmet needs of elders must be met. Elders are our bridge to our past, our heritage and our treasured resource.

Funding for Kupuna Care is imminent to Hawaii's Kupuna to age in place with your whole hearted and sensitive support.

Thank you very much.

LATE

TO : COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senator Les Ihara, Vice Chair

FROM: Eldon L. Wegner, Ph.D.
POLICY ADVISORY BOARD FOR ELDER AFFAIRS (PABEA)

HEARING: 2:00 pm Tuesday February 8, 2011
Conference Room 016, Hawaii State Capitol

SUBJECT: SB 1508 Relating to Kupuna Care

POSITION: As a member of The Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs, I **strongly supports** SB 1508 which would provide additional funds for the Kupuna Care program through the fiscal year 2013.

RATIONALE:

The Policy Board for Elder Affairs has a statutory obligation to advocate on behalf of the senior citizens of Hawaii. While we advise the Executive Office on Aging, we do not speak on behalf of the Executive Office of Aging.

§ We understand the current fiscal crisis facing the state of Hawaii. However, the care of frail elders is an immediate need and should be an important priority for public support.

§ The Kupuna Care services, which persons not eligible for Medicaid services, enable families to care for their elders at home and also keep persons from having to go on Medicaid. Not to fund basic home and community services would result in many case of persons having to use higher cost residential care, usually at public expense.

§ The current Kupuna Care services fall short of meeting the critical need, and the demand for these services will continue to grow. There are wait lists for most services, although they are urgently needed. The state is falling far short of providing for its most vulnerable citizens who are in critical need.

§ These critical services have major impacts on the quality of life of frail elders and their caregivers and the cost of the services is relatively low compared to other expenditures of the state. Thus, I strongly recommend support for additional funding in order to meet our moral obligations to those in greatest need.

Thank you for allowing me to testify on this bill.